REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of June 14, 2005, in which claims 1, 4-7, 10-13 and 16-18 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,604,705 to Ackland, et al., in view of U.S. Patent 6,341,083 to Wong. Claims 5, 11 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

The present amendment rewrites dependent claims 5, 11 and 17 into independent form. In addition, claims 6, 12 and 18 are amended to change the dependencies thereof to claims 5, 11 and 17, respectively. The remaining claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, each of the outstanding §103(a) rejections over the combination of Ackland and Wong have been rendered moot.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN E. BARTH, JR., ET AL.

CANTOR COLBURN LLP Applicants' Attorneys

Ву ___

Sean F. Sullivan

Registration No. 38,328 Customer No. 46428

Date:

January 26, 2006

Address:

55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Telephone:

(860) 286-2929